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*RD 8/13/04*

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A sheathing ~~for~~ of a communication cable, comprising:

a first layer of a first material containing a first proportion of a dye admixed with said first material, and bounding a core of said communication cable;

a second layer adjacent said first layer and ~~bounding~~ an exterior of ~~said communication cable~~, said second layer forming an exterior surface having a marking face adapted to be marked by irradiation with photons, and said second layer being formed of a second material and containing a second proportion of the dye smaller than said first proportion of dye which is admixed with the second material, said second proportion of dye associated with said second layer being selected to cause a color change upon irradiation with photons by melting an irradiated region, thereby forming a foamed CO<sub>2</sub> region that scatters incident light.

2. (original) The sheathing according to claim 1, wherein said second material is one of translucent and transparent for the radiation used for marking.

3. (previously presented) The sheathing according to claim 1, wherein at least one dimension selected from the group consisting of said second proportion of dye associated with said second layer and a thickness of said second layer is adjusted such that said second layer completely absorbs the radiation used for marking.

4. (original) The sheathing according to claim 1, wherein said dye in said first and second layers is carbon material selected from the group consisting of soot and graphite.

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